

ABSTRACT

Mesenchymal cells are unexpectedly found to express specific truncated versions of immunoglobulin (Ig) superfamily members, namely T cell receptors and related proteins of the immunoglobulin superfamily, as exemplified by the ν heavy chain. Mesenchymal T cell receptor
5 and Ig heavy chain gene products either directly or indirectly control hemopoetic stem cells. Antisense therapy and antibodies can be used to reduce TCR and Ig heavy chain mediated functions. Conversely, overexpression of the TCR and/or Ig heavy chain can be used to induce hemopoiesis, for example in stem cell transplantation or following chemotherapy.